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parasites. The *Miris maidis* and *Empusa muscæ* have been discussed.

— Three excellent papers on the three climates of geology, by C. B. Warring, have lately appeared in the *Penn Monthly*. They are mainly critiques of Croll's speculations.

— Mr. George A. Bates, Naturalist Bureau, Salem, Mass., announces the publication of Life on the Sea-Shore, or the Marine Animals of our Coasts and Bays, by James H. Emerton.

— Prof. A. E. Grube, of the University of Breslau, died June 3d. He was born in 1812, and will be remembered by his valuable treatises on the invertebrates, especially the worms or Annelides, in the knowledge of which he was *facile princeps*.

— Prof. E. B. Andrews, of the Geological Survey of Ohio, and author of one of its final reports, died Aug. 21st, aged 59.

— Gen. A. J. Myer, the head of the U. S. Signal Service, died Aug. 24th, aged 51.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Twenty-ninth Meeting, Boston, Aug. 25 to Sept. 1, 1880.—This proved to be the largest meeting of the association ever held, and the members received a right royal welcome from the citizens of Boston. The address of the retiring president, Prof. George F. Barker, was on "Some modern aspects of the Life Question." He said that at the outset a reply to the great question, What is Life? must be evaded by the assertion that the answer is not yet. However, one of the greatest results of modern research has been to establish the fact that living organisms have been brought absolutely within the action of the law of the conservation of energy, and that whether it be plant or animal, the whole of its energy must come from without itself; in fact, an animal like a machine only transforms its energy. Lavoisier's Guinea pig placed in the calorimeter, gave as accurate a heat return for the energy it had absorbed in its food, as any thermic engine would have done. He next referred to the origin of muscular contraction, and arrived at the conclusion that it was due to electrical phenomena, adding the interesting fact that the electrical discharge was not carried to the muscle by the nerve, but was generated within the muscle itself. He said in conclusion that physiologically considered life has now no mysterious passages, no sacred precincts into which the unhallowed foot of science may not enter, and that research has day by day diminished the phenomena supposed to be vital, and that sooner or later every action of the living body will be pronounced chemical or physical."

The address of Mr. Alexander Agassiz, vice-president of section B, was entitled, "Palæontological and Embryological Development." The speaker referred to the remarkable parallelism between the embryonic development of the members of a group and its palæontological history. This parallelism, which has been on the one side a strong argument in favor of design in the plan of creation, is now, with slight emendations, doing duty on the other as a newly discovered article of faith in the new biology.

As a demonstration of the truth of such a parallelism, he presented a series of facts and generalizations resulting from his studies of the fossil and recent sea-urchins. In closing he insisted on the impossibility of tracing in the palæontological succession of the Echini anything like a sequence of genera. "No direct filiation can be shown to exist, and yet the very existence of persistent types, not only among Echinoderms, but in every group of marine animals, genera which have continued to exist without interruption from the earliest epochs at which they occur to the present day, would prove conclusively that at any rate some groups among the marine animals of the present day are the direct descendants of those of the earliest geological periods. When we come to types which have not continued as long, but yet which have extended through two or three great periods, we must likewise accord to their latest representatives a direct descent from the older." * * * "Such descent we can trace, and trace as confidently as we trace a part of the population of North America of to-day as the descendants of some portion of the population of the beginning of this century. But we can go no further with confidence, and bold indeed would he be who would attempt even in a single State to trace the genealogy of the inhabitants from those of ten years before. We had better acknowledge our inability to go beyond a certain point; anything beyond the general parallelism I have attempted to trace which in no way invalidates the other proposition, we must recognize as hopeless."

Prof. A. M. Mayer read an eulogy on the late Prof. Joseph Henry. The botanists were entertained at the Botanic Garden by Prof. Asa Gray, who read an essay on the vegetation of the Rocky mountains. Prof. A. Hyatt also gave an evening lecture on the transformations of Planorbis as an illustration of the doctrine of evolution.

The following officers were elected for the next year, the meeting to be held at Cincinnati: president, Prof. G. J. Brush, of New Haven; secretary, Prof. C. V. Riley, of Washington; treasurer, Mr. W. S. Vaux, of Philadelphia; president of section A, Prof. A. M. Mayer, of Hoboken; secretary, Prof. John Trowbridge, of Cambridge; president of section B, Dr. W. H. Engelman, of St. Louis; secretary, Prof. William Saunders, of Canada.

Following are the titles of papers read in section B, natural history and geology:

Comparative anatomy as a part of the medical curriculum. Harrison Allen.
Distinguishing species of Populus and Juglans by the young naked branches. W. J. Beal.
Evidences of the effect of chemico-physical influences in the evolution of branchipod crustaceans. Carl F. Gissler.
Observations on Japanese Brachipoda. E. S. Morse.
An investigation of the peach yellows. B. D. Halsted.
Incomplete adaptation as illustrated by the history of sex in plants. L. F. Ward.
Evolution of parasitic plants. Thomas Meehan.
Anthrax of fruit trees; or the so-called fire blight of the pear and twig blight of the apple tree. T. J. Burrill.
Further notes on the pollination of Yucca, and on Pronuba and Prodoxus. C. V. Riley.
Fossil Dinocerata in the E. M. Museum at Princeton, N. J. F. C. Hill.
Origin and succession of Felidæ. E. D. Cope.
Preservation of fossil insects and plants at Mazon creek. J. W. Pike.
Menobranchus lateralis. P. R. Hoy.
The endocranium and maxillary suspensorium of the bee. G. Macloskie.
Anatomy of the tongue in snakes and other reptiles, and in birds. Exhibition of sections. Charles Sedgwick Minot.
The first decade of the U. S. Fish Commission. Its plan of work and accomplished results, scientific and economical. G. Brown Goode.
Partial revision of the nomenclature of the brain. Burt G. Wilder.
The foramina of Monro in man and the domestic cat. Burt G. Wilder.
The *crista fornicis*, a part of the mammalian brain apparently not hitherto described. Burt G. Wilder.
Plan of the cerebro-spinal nervous system. S. V. Clevenger.
The Cupriferous series in Minnesota. N. H. Winchell.
The excavation of the upper basin and clove of the Kaaterskill, Catskill mountains, N. Y. Alexis A. Julian.
The Pulmonates of the Palæozoic period. J. W. Dawson.
On the summation of muscular contractions. Charles Sedgwick Minot.
Notice of a complete bibliography on Plathelminths. Charles Sedgwick Minot.
Two new methods of fighting injurious insects. A. J. Cook.
Feeling and function as factors in human development. Lester F. Ward.
The metamorphosis of Actinotrocha. E. B. Wilson.
The rhythmical character of segmentation. W. K. Brooks.
The credit of the United States Government. E. B. Elliott.
Additional notes on the army worm (*Leucania unipuncta* Haw.). C. V. Riley.
The Spanish mackerel and its artificial propagation. C. W. Smiley.
Notes on kames and assars of N. E. Iowa. W. J. McGee.
The age of the copper bearing rocks of Lake Superior. M. E. Wadsworth.
Field work by amateurs. Ellen H. Walworth.
Origin of gold placer deposits and formation of nuggets. Thomas Egleston.
Coals of the Galisteo in New Mexico. B. Silliman.
Auriferous gravels of the Upper Rio Grande in New Mexico. B. Silliman.
Extension of the Carboniferous formation in Massachusetts. W. O. Crosby and G. H. Barton.
Subsidence and erosion. A. S. Tiffany.
On maximum synchronous glaciation. W. J. McGee.
The granites in the White Mountain Notch, upon Mount Willard, and their contact phenomena. George W. Hawes.
Eruptive rocks of Mt. Ascutney. C. H. Hitchcock.
Notes on Japanese Pulmonifera. E. S. Morse.
Recent practical results of the cotton worm inquiry by the U. S. Entomological Commission. C. V. Riley.
Mineral discoveries in Western North Carolina. J. T. Humphreys.
Ancient topography in North Carolina. W. C. Kerr.
Recent geology as illustrated in the coast region of North Carolina. W. C. Kerr.
Some points in the structure of mica veins in North Carolina. W. C. Kerr.
A new mode of vein formation. W. C. Kerr.
Condition of the kames and moraines of New England, as bearing upon the date of the glacial epoch. G. F. Wright.

Occurrence of tin at Winslow, Me. C. H. Hitchcock.
On the gravel deposits of Kentucky. J. R. Proctor.
On several horizons of Breccia in Kentucky. J. R. Proctor.
Method of preparing and mounting wings of micro-lepidoptera. C. H. Fernald.
The contributions of the Cambridge Entomological Club to the progress of entomology. B. Pickman Mann.
The life-habits of certain bee flies (Bombyliidæ). C. V. Riley.
Remarks on tree crickets. C. V. Riley.
Remarks on the early stages of Blepharocera. C. V. Riley.
On biological collections of insects. H. A. Hagen.
The occurrence of *Aletia argillacea* in Wisconsin. P. R. Hoy.
The migrations of the Rocky Mountain locust. A. S. Packard, Jr.
On some very rare insect deformities. H. A. Hagen.
Insects from Copal. D. S. Martin.
Some points in the anatomy of the Coccidæ. E. L. Mark.
Structure and development of certain hymenopterous galls. H. F. Bassett.
Notes on North American Galeodes (Solpugidæ). J. D. Putnam.
Contributions of apiculture to science. A. J. Cook.
Address of the president of the Entomological Club of A. A. A. S. S. H. Scudder.
The honey ants of the Garden of the Gods, Colorado. H. C. McCook.
On *Phoxopteris angulifasciana.* C. H. Fernald.
List of Coleoptera hatched from a few hickory twigs. J. L. LeConte.
On the anatomy of *Prodoxus decipiens.* H. A. Hagen.
On the structure of the mouth organs in the Lepidoptera. E. Burgess.
An essay on lightning bugs. J. L. Le Conte.
On the Hessian fly. H. A. Hagen.
On some rare insect deformities. H. A. Hagen.
On the classification of the Tortricidæ. C. H. Fernald.
Generic characters in the Noctuidæ. A. R. Grote.
Scheme of the tenth census for obtaining statistics of untaxed Indians. Garrick Mallery.
Exhibition of stone implements from the river drift of New Jersey. C. C. Abbott.
Indications of a Pre-Indian occupancy of the Atlantic coast of North America, subsequent to that of palæolithic man. C. C. Abbott.
The Dacotah tribes. H. B. Carrington.
Alabaster quarries, flint mines and other antiquities recently found in Mammoth, Wyandot and Luray caverns. H. C. Hovey.
Textile fabrics of the ancient inhabitants of the Mississippi valley. Pt. I. Material. Preparation of material and spinning, illustrated with specimens of bark, spindle whorls, models of spindles and cuts. J. G. Henderson.
Engraved tablet from a mound in Ohio. W. J. Knowlton.
Japanese caves. E. S. Morse.
Ancient agricultural implements of stone. Wm. McAdams.
The Indian question. D. A. Lyle.
The classification of kindred by the N. A. Indians. J. W. Powell.
On the Iroquois languages. Miss Erminnie A. Smith.
On the rank of Indian languages. J. W. Powell.
Remarks on the mound-builders. J. F. Everhart.
Contemporaneous existence of mastodon and man in America. R. J. Farquharson.
Conventionalism in ornamentation of ancient American pottery. F. W. Putnam.
On the occurrence in New England of carvings by the Indians of the north-west coast of America. F. W. Putnam.
Sign language and pantomimic dances among the North American Indians. J. G. Henderson.
The topographical survey of the works at Aztalan, Wis. S. D. Peet.
The military system of the emblematic mound-builders. S. D. Peet.
Improved stereograph for delineating the outlines of crania. A. S. Bickmore.
The uses of the "chungkee stone." Alfred M. Mayer.
Abundance of microscopic forms of life in the central and lateral surfaces of ponds. Eph. Cutter.
The value of the water shed and water supply of the globe. F. L. Capen.
The antiquity of man in Eastern America geologically considered. Henry C. Lewis.